

his law partner, Newton D. Baker, former secretary of war.

Christmas Eve will leave the "big gray hotel up the river."

# Augusta Township Couple Observe 50th Anniversary

## Mr. And Mrs. John Helzer- man Married Fifty Years Ago Today

November 21, 1874, Miss Louisa Oelka and Fred Helzerman were united in marriage. Today, hale and strong, this young-old couple, surrounded by approximately 200 relatives and friends, are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary at their farmhome in Augusta township, where they have spent their entire married life.

Mr. Helzerman was born December 29, 1848, in Leapsae, in the province of Westphalia, Germany. Here he spent his boyhood years and learned the trade of shoemaker. He has often told stories of the deprivation of those early days. The entire family of six lived in one small room that was also the workshop when work was to be had. Often there were no shoes to be made or mended and on those occasions the family knew what the pangs of hunger were.

### Family Came to U. S.

There seemed no way out until a small legacy from an uncle, who had emigrated to the States years before, enabled the family to embark for the friendly shores of America. The entire family consisting of the parents and four children, sailed from Bremerhaven on the old windjammer "Stella." Capt. Stungraven, on July 29, 1866, and after a rough voyage of fifty four days, landed at New York, Sept. 23, coming directly to Ypsilanti.

Arriving here the father, Mr. Helzerman, and his brother, Henry, opened a shoe shop in the basement of the Bucklin House which then occupied the site on which the Savings Bank now stands. Busi-

ness came quickly to these German craftsmen and they, in grateful acknowledgement of the new found prosperity, transferred to this homeland their affection and their allegiance.

Said Mr. Helzerman: "When I had been in Ypsilanti three weeks I learned that if I was only willing to work I could always eat three meals daily. I said then, this is the country for me. Here I am going to stay." No one has ever had any reason to question his staunch Americanism.

### Bought Farm

While living here the family built the house now occupied by Barbara Marik at 11 Center St. After three years spent in the shoe-making business, the family purchased eighty acres of woodland in Augusta Township and moved thereon in March 1869. The present homestead includes a part of the original purchase and on it is built the residence of the present Mr. and Mrs. Helzerman.

Mrs. Helzerman whose maiden name was Louisa Oelka, was born in Brombery, Province of Posen, Germany, and knew the hardships of life in the old world. Her experience there and here crossing of the ocean were similar to that of Mr. Helzerman's.

They met and were married in Ypsilanti and immediately founded their home in the forests of Augusta, only a few rods from their present residence.

Life at that time, under conditions which confronted this young couple, would seem practically impossible to any young couple of today. Only those whose memories extend back half a century can visualize the hardships under which they still lived. But it is with

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# AUGUSTA COUPLE WED FIFTY YEARS

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pleasure that they recall the days when deer still roamed the forests of Augusta.

Wild turkeys were plentiful,

squirrels were a pest, raccoon, mink and other fur bearing animals were everywhere found. Oxen, not autos, was the motive power of the time. Telephones were undreamed of. The daily paper was confined to a small circulation in the large cities. Few were the country homes into which even a weekly paper found its way.

## Wood Only Product

Ypsilanti was their market and about the only products they could bring to it was oak tan bark and

wood. Yellow oak tan bark was worth eight dollars per cord at the tannery near where the Farm Bureau elevator now stands. Yellow oak wood cut four feet long was worth \$2.50 per cord at the paper mill. The Helzerman's cut one yellow oak that yielded one cord of tan bark.

To make the trip with oxen, Mr. Helzerman had to leave home as early as one o'clock a. m. and often would not return until nine o'clock in the evening.

The route lay from his home eastward and northeastward along

thrift, industry, frugality and perseverance were developed, slowly prosperity came. The family grew, the forest disappeared, game retreated and pleasant, well tilled fields extended in every direction.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Helzerman: Robert of London Twp., Mrs. Wm. Witcomb of Salem Twp., Fred, Jr., and Charles of Augusta, Mrs. Arthur Northrup of Ypsilanti, Max, who died in 1913, Mrs. Prince of Sumpter, Albert of Detroit, and Arthur of Milan.

## A Township Officer

Mr. Helzerman has held many positions of trust in the school district and the township, being Highway Commissioner at the present time. He was first elected to township office more than 30 years ago.

A few days since Mr. Helzerman said: "My father lived to the age of ninety one and I am determined to live as long as he." Though this is in defiance of the law that allots three score and ten, both Mr. and Mrs. Helzerman bid fair to celebrate many more returns of their wedding day.

Today their children are presenting to each of them a lovely chair, in token of their love. John B. Harris, an old friend of the family.



JOHN HELZERMAN

the old Territorial road (traces of which can still be seen) in Sumpter Twp., then northwestward to the corners where Harry Wright now lives; east, to Brick school house, and thence north to Rawsonville and Ypsilanti. The old road grade south of the river at Rawsonville can still be seen in the fields to the west of the present road. As it was springy, in the winter time ice often accumulated until it was very difficult to traverse. Pioneers bound to Ypsilanti with tan bark, wood, or other produce, would wait at the top of the hill until several others came along and then all hands would assist each ox team down the steep and slippery grade.

Under conditions of this kind,

**ONE THIN WOMAN  
GAINED 10 POUNDS  
IN 22 DAYS**

**Skinny Men Can**



MRS. JOHN HELZERMAN

who assisted in Mr. Helzerman's nomination and election to his first township office, made the presentation speech, saying, in part, "To you, old friends, the community at large extends congratulations and best wishes—congratulations at having marched so long together, best wishes that you may continue to fight life's battles and share life's joys for years to come, and always together."



TOMORROW

Saturday, Nov. 22, 1924

**MICHIGAN-  
IOWA**

**Foot Ball**

You will need some of these New English Infot Hose. New ribbed effects, light weight, but yet warm.

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**\$1.00**

**SNYDER & BERGIN**

WASHINGTON AT PEARL

FOR THE  
**Thanksgiving Turkey**